



Minutes

EPC REGULAR MEETING

December 16, 2019

7:30 – 09:30 PM

City Hall, Room 2000

Attendance

EPC Members		Staff
Humza Arshad	P	Khoa Tran
Craig Berry	P	Bill Skrabak
Eldon Boes	P	Jesse Maines
Edith Cecchini	P	Melanie Mason
Kathie Hoekstra	P	Bill Eger
James Hook	P	Dana Wedeles
Praveen Kathpal	P	
Michael Kulas	P	Guests
Brendan Owens	P	Steve Baneshke
Marta Schantz	P	UDR Team of Professionals
Carolyn Schroeder	P	Brian Willis
Reid Sherman	P	

P: Present; A: Absent - Unexcused; E: Absent – Excused

FY2020 Environmental Policy Commission Attendance Summary												
Member's Name	2019						2020					
	Retreat (Sep 21)	Sep 30	Oct 21	Nov 18	Dec 16		Jan 27	Feb 24	Mar 16	Apr 20	May 18	Jun 15
Brendan Owens	P	P	P	A/E	P							80%
Carolyn Schroeder	E	P	P	P	P							100%
Craig Berry	P	E	A/E	P	P							80%
Eldon Boes	P	E	P	P	P							100%
Humza Arshad	P	P	P	P	P							100%
James Hook	E	E	P	P	P							100%
Mike Kulas	P	E	P	P	P							100%
Praveen Kathpal	P	P	P	P	P							100%
Reid Sherman	P	P	P	P	P							100%
Martha Schantz	P	P	P	P	P							100%
Edith Cecchini				P	P							100%
Kathie Hoekstra				P	P							100%

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The Environmental Policy Commission meeting was called to order by Chair P. Kathpal at 7:35PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Minutes for November 18 meeting was approved unanimously with one change proposed by Commissioner Schantz to reflect the fact the Chair moved the Public Comment period to the end of the meeting and that the team of UDR introduced themselves.
- Commissioners representing the EPC on other City commissions/committees and staff reported on current status with the following points or actions:
 - Commissioner Boes noted that it would be appropriate to know the carbon impact of the water taxi proposal.
 - Chair Kathpal reported on his telephone discussion with staff whereby the 2020 Earth Day Planning Committee will be lead by staff with Lisa Goldberg being the Chair of this committee, and that the EPC was invited to have a representative. By an unanimous vote, Commissioner Hoekstra was designated the EPC representative on this committee.
 - Staff mentioned that the City's Earth Day will be on May 2, 2020, and at the same location as this year's, i.e., GW Middle School playground. Also, the theme will be the 50th Earth Day Anniversary.
 - Commissioner Berry reported that RiverRenew has shortlisted three qualified design/build teams that will respond to the Request for Proposal Documents to be issued in February 2020 per his attached written report.
 - Chair Kathpal reported on the Eco-City Steering Committee meeting on November 19 and noted that besides the Vice-Mayor Bennett-Parker and Councilwoman Pepper, only two department directors (T&ES Yon Lambert and Code Administration Greg Fields) were present.

4. Resource Protection Area Request for Newport Village Project by UDR

- Melanie Mason of T&ES Stormwater Management Division made a presentation and pointed out the five established exception criteria. From staff's perspective, the proposed development fails to satisfy any of these criteria. Thus, staff recommends denial of this RPA exemption request.
- The applicant then made a presentation asserting that the proposed development would lead to an overall improvement to water quality by at least ten times.
- After several questions to both staff and the applicant, by a vote of 6 to 5 (For: Commissioners Kathpal, Boes, Cecchini, Hoekstra, Kulas, Schroeder; Against: Commissioners Arshad, Berry, Hook, Owens, Sherman) with one recusal (Commissioner Schantz) due to professional relationship with UDR, the commission voted to pass the resolution that the EPC recommends to the Planning Commission to deny the RPA exemption request by UDR.
- Commissioner Hook was assigned by the Chair to draft a letter to the Planning Commission for discussion and approval at the next EPC meeting on January 27, 2020.

5. Energy & Climate Change Action Updates

- Bill Eger, Energy Manager, Department of General Services gave an overview of the GS Office of Energy Management and reviewed the current status of several actions stipulated in the EAP 2040 relating to energy and climate change.
- Chair Kathpal had a question regarding action 1.1.3 relating to pension fund criteria aimed at fostering renewable energy. Bill Eger will consult with other staff in Finance department on this.

6. RPCA 2019 Needs Assessment

- Dana Wedeles of RPCA department gave an informative presentation on the 2019 needs assessment survey results aimed at identifying priorities for the department.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 PM.
- The next meeting of the commission will be held at 7:30 PM, January 27, 2020.